AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 1.

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the non-final official action of June 18, 2008, wherein (a) claims 1-18 were pending, (b) claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by Brown US 5,987,107 ("Brown"), and (c) claims 3, 6, 11-15, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but deemed allowable in substance.

This response is timely filed.

By the foregoing, the claims have been amended for clarity.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the below-provided remarks.

The issues raised in the outstanding official action are addressed below in the order raised in the action.

I.   Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present application describes example techniques for establishing charging rules when a new service is added to a communication system, without requiring a user to directly update or modify the existing charging processing module. Instead, only the service information provided to the charging processing module need be modified to allow the system to acquire the charging rule. See, e.g., present application, page 9.

Along these lines, Claim 1 recites a method for realizing charging, comprising:

> a. setting up a mapping relation between a service attribute of a
> to-be-charged service and a charging rule of the to-be-charged
> service;
>
> b. acquiring the service attribute of the to-be-charged service
> when the to-be-charged service is needed to be charged;
>
> c. acquiring the charging rule of the to-be-charged service
> through the service attribute of the to-be-charged service,
> according to the mapping relation between the service attribute
> and the charging rule; and

            d. charging the to-be-charged service according to the acquired
            charging rule of the to-be-charged service.

The reference cited by the examiner, Brown, relates to providing discounts for
particular types of calls, where the actual amount billed to a customer depends upon whether
the customer is signed up for a particular type of service. See, Brown column 2, lines 10-11.
Brown's system pre-calculates a notional (or initial) charge for each call item, and then
accumulates these notional charges in separate call-type accumulators. Afterwards, the
accumulated data is mapped from the separate call-type accumulators into category
accumulators, according to "customer specific data." Thus, Brown does not teach or suggest
"acquiring the charging rule of the to-be-charged service through the service attribute of the
to-be-charged service, according to the mapping relation between the service attribute and the
charging rule," as recited in claim 1. In Brown, the notional charge is pre-set from the call
type, and the discount is pre-assigned to the various category accumulators. The call item
and other information is not used to acquire a charging rule.

Furthermore, Brown cannot be said to teach setting up a mapping between a service
attribute and a charging rule, as a generally provided for in claim 1, because Brown uses a
different kind of charging system, one based on a notional charge pre-assigned to each call
item. As illustrated in Figure 4 thereof, the Brown system uses the notional charge and
discount rates established by the system, whereas the system like that of Figure 3 of the
present application (see, also page 17 line 19 – page 18 line 13), acquires the service
identifier and charging category and discount (block 320) and **then** (blocks 330-350)
determines whether a charging rule is associated with the service attribute or not. If there is
no association (e.g., at service initialization), the illustrated technique then acquires the
charging rule by first acquiring the service charging attribute and then applying a mapping to
charging rule. The system of Brown nowhere describes this ability to acquire a charging rule
from the service attribute data. Thus, for this reason as well, Brown does not teach
"acquiring the charging rule of the to-be-charged service through the service attribute of the
to-be-charged service, according to the mapping relation between the service attribute and the
charging rule," as recited in claim 1.

The Brown system is simply quite different than the present application. Whereas,
generally speaking, the present application allows the service attribute of the to-be-charged
service to be used to determine the charging rule through a mapping relation between the two

(see, e.g., claim 1), in Brown no charging rule is acquired from service attribute data. Instead that data is used to categorize a call item to different notional charges and discounts based on a pre-established association. See column 2, lines 20-22. Furthermore, in Brown in order to decide the discount rate for the customer, the customer is presented with a selection of options and makes a particular selection from the available options according to their perceived demand for service uses (resulting in the "customer specific data" used for mapping). See column 5, lines 41-67. The present application provides techniques for automatically establishing new charging rules based on service attributes without manually changing the charging processing module.

In any event, for at least the foregoing reasons and the absence of at least the above-highlighted claim recitations, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefore.

Claim 16 is a system claim reciting subject matter similar to the of claim 1 albeit in a different form. As such, the rejection of claim 16 is traversed for similar reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 are solicited.
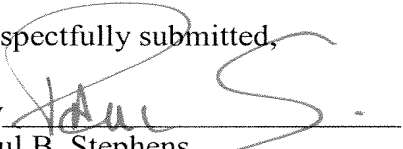
II.   Conclusion

A prompt indication of allowability of all claims 1-18 is earnestly solicited.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Dated: September 16, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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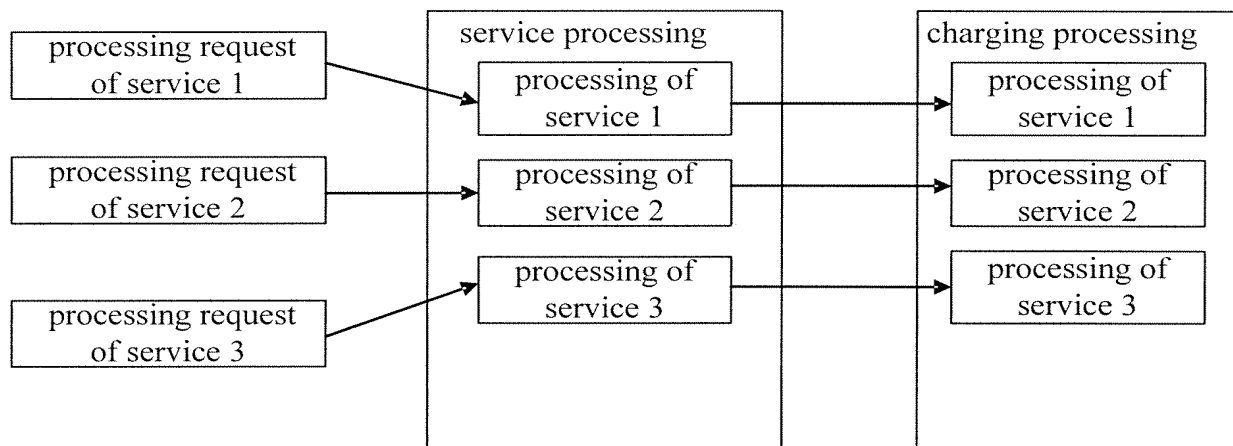233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
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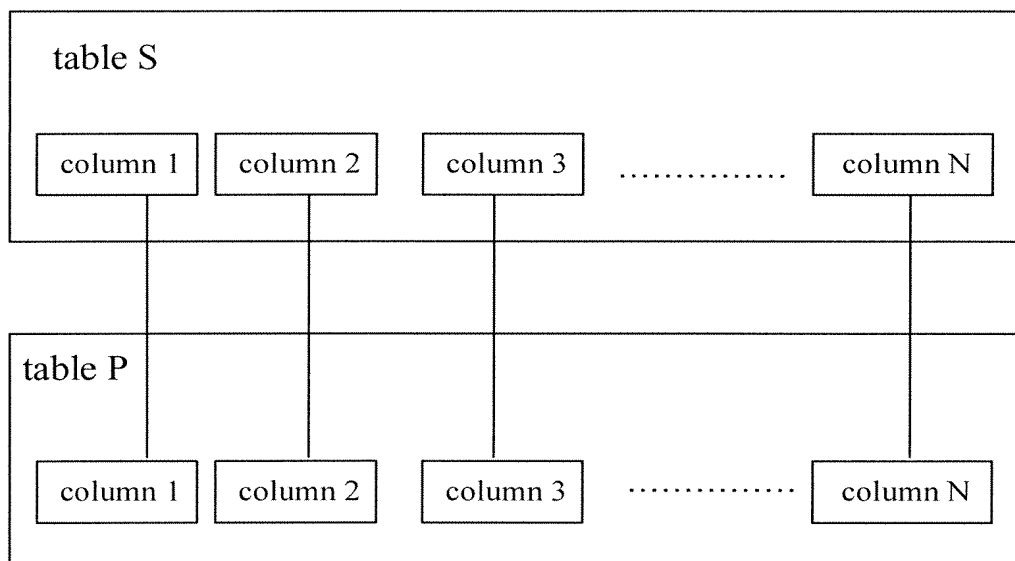(312) 474-6300
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FIG. 1

(Prior Art)

FIG. 2